

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ergonomic remote control device for the remote control of a television set, the remote control device comprising:

a housing substantially in the shape of a control stick, adapted for being held by a human hand and being manipulated by the digits of the hand, fixed to a base such that the housing will stand upright,

a plurality of control switches mounted on said control stick positioned to be manipulated by the digits of the hand,

an infrared transmitting light diode housed in said control stick for transmitting television viewing control signals to a television set,

an electrical circuit contained within said housing capable of encoding signals from said plurality of control switches for transmission through said infrared light diode, and

a power supply mounted within said housing for supplying power for said electrical circuitry.

2. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 1 wherein said plurality of switches comprises at least one readily available thumb switch mounted near the top front face of the control stick.

3. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 2 wherein said thumb switch is a four position switch.

4. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 3 wherein said four position switch controls the television volume and the television channel selection.

5. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 1 wherein the television control functions of the various said plurality of switches are user programmable.

6. The ergonomic remote control of claim 2 wherein said thumb switch is a five position switch controlling the television up volume, down volume, mute, channel up, and channel down functions.

7. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 2 wherein said plurality of switches further comprises at least one readily available finger trigger switch mounted on the back upper portion of the control stick.

8. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 7 wherein:
said electrical circuit is further adapted with a memory for retaining a plurality user programmable television channels,
said memory being successively accessed by activation of said trigger switch to signal a change in channel.

9. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 1 wherein said power supply source comprises at least one battery mounted within said base.

10. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 1 further comprising a first keypad having a plurality of TV control buttons for controlling functions of a television set through said electrical circuitry and said infrared diode, with said first keypad mounted in a recess on a first lateral side of said base.

11. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 10 wherein:
said plurality of switches comprises at least one readily available thumb switch mounted near the top front face of the control stick,
said plurality of switches further comprises at least one readily available finger trigger switch mounted on the back upper portion of the control stick,
said electrical circuit is further adapted with a memory for retaining a plurality of user programmable television channels,
said memory being successively accessed by activation of said trigger switch to signal a change in channel.

12. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 11 wherein:
said plurality of switches further comprises a digit keypad mounted on the upper portion of the control stick, and
said readily available thumb switch is a multi-position switch.

13. An ergonomic remote control device for the remote control of a television set and a VCR, the remote control device comprising:

a housing substantially in the shape of a control stick, adapted for being held by a human hand and being manipulated by the digits of the hand, fixed to a base such that the housing will stand upright,

a plurality of control switches mounted on said control stick positioned to be manipulated by the digits of the hand,

an infrared transmitting light diode housed in said control stick for transmitting television viewing control signals to a television set and for transmitting VCR control signals to a VCR,

an electrical circuit contained within said housing capable of encoding signals from said plurality of control switches for transmission through said infrared light diode, and

a power supply mounted within said housing for supplying power for said electrical circuitry.

14. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 12 further comprising a first keypad having a plurality of TV control buttons for controlling functions of a television set through said electrical circuitry and said infrared diode, with said first keypad mounted in a recess on a first lateral side of said base.

15. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 13 further comprising a second keypad having a plurality of VCR control buttons for controlling functions of a VCR through said electrical circuitry and said infrared diode, with said second keypad mounted in a recess on a second lateral side of said base.

16. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 14 wherein:
said plurality of switches comprises at least one readily available thumb switch mounted near the top front face of the control stick,

said plurality of switches further comprises at least one readily available finger trigger switch mounted on the back upper portion of the control stick,

said electrical circuit is further adapted with a memory for retaining a plurality of user programmable television channels,

said memory being successively accessed by activation of said trigger switch to signal a change in channel.

17. The ergonomic remote control of claim 16 wherein said thumb switch controls the television up volume, down volume, channel up, and channel down functions.

18. An ergonomic remote control device for the remote control of a television set and a DVD, the remote control device comprising:

a housing substantially in the shape of a control stick, adapted for being held by a human hand and being manipulated by the digits of the hand, fixed to a base such that the housing will stand upright,

a plurality of control switches mounted on said control stick positioned to be manipulated by the digits of the hand,

an infrared transmitting light diode housed in said control stick for transmitting television viewing control signals to a television set and for transmitting DVD control signals to a DVD,

an electrical circuit contained within said housing capable of encoding signals from said plurality of control switches for transmission through said infrared light diode, and

a power supply mounted within said housing for supplying power for said electrical circuitry.

19. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 18 further comprising:

- a first keypad having a plurality of TV control buttons for controlling functions of a television set through said electrical circuitry and said infrared diode, with said first keypad mounted in a recess on a first lateral side of said base, and

- a second keypad having a plurality of DVD control buttons for controlling functions of a DVD through said electrical circuitry and said infrared diode, with said second keypad mounted in a recess on a second lateral side of said base.

20. The ergonomic remote control device of claim 18 wherein:
said plurality of switches comprises at least one readily available thumb switch mounted near the top front face of the control stick,

- said plurality of switches further comprises at least one readily available finger trigger switch mounted on the back upper portion of the control stick,

- said electrical circuit is further adapted with a memory for retaining a plurality user programmable television channels,

- said memory being successively accessed by activation of said trigger switch to signal a change in channel.